

memorandum

DATE: April 29, 1986
REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Migratory Bird Field Coordinator, Memphis, TN
SUBJECT: White River NWR Endangered Species Meeting

TO: Chief, Wildlife & Habitat Management Branch, FWS, Atlanta, GA (WR)

Attached is the required report for subject meeting.



cc: Refuge Manager, White River NWR
Fred Bagley, SE, Jackson, MS
Refuge Supervisor (MW), Atlanta, GA

"Get Serious About Safety"

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Refuge Trip Report

Endangered Species Meeting - White River NWR

April 23, 1986

Purpose: To review endangered species management activities on White River NWR with endangered species personnel.

Species: Bald Eagle

A. Current Refuge Management Activities: (also see attachment)

1. Monitor Nesting Activity

In conjunction with aerial waterfowl counts, refuge personnel also attempt to locate eagle nests. These nests are then monitored to determine if they are active and to gather production data. To date, six nests have been located in the southeastern section of the refuge. Only one nest has been determined to be active.

2. Winter Population Count

The refuge participates in the coordinated national winter population survey.

3. Regulatory Activities

The refuge staff has been working cooperatively with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission to implement state regulations that will regulate the use of site-baits that are used by trappers. This effort has been successful and a regulation will be implemented this year that should reduce the number of eagles caught in traps. Normally, one or two eagles a year will be reported to the refuge staff as being caught in traps.

B. Additional Refuge Management Needs:

1. Two winter aerial flights \$240.00

The staff feels there are probably more than six nests on the refuge. This can only be determined by making additional aerial flights for the sole purpose of locating nests.

2. Eight summer aerial flights \$960.00

Additional flights are needed to monitor eagle activities associated with known nests. These flights are to determine the number of active nests, clutch size, hatching success, mortality factors and number of eaglets fledged. The refuge presently conducts some flights but no funds have ever been provided.

C. Endangered Species Program Needs

1. Fred Bagley, from the Endangered Species Office believes that the refuge management program for eagles is appropriate. He agrees that additional efforts to locate nests and monitor nesting activities are needed and he will request the refuge be funded for these activities.

Species: American Alligator

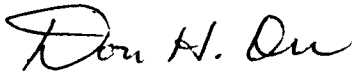
A. Current Refuge Management Activities

1. The refuge staff has been conducting night spot-light counts in an attempt to determine a population index. The first year of the counts, two alligators were observed; the second year one was observed, and none have been observed for the last two years. Results are provided to Dr. Chabrech at LSU.

B. Recommendations

1. Since no alligators have been observed for two years, the group was in agreement that annual spot-light surveys should be terminated. Endangered species was in agreement and Dr. Chabreck will be contacted concerning this recommendation.

Personnel Present: Fred Bagley, Marvin Hurdle, Jim Johnson, Bonnie Bell,
Jeff Denman, John Oberheu, Don Orr



Don H. Orr
Migratory Bird Field Coordinator

cc: Refuge Manager, White River NWR
Fred Bagley, SE, Jackson, MS
Refuge Supervisor (MW), Atlanta, GA
Chief, WHMB, Atlanta, GA

SUMMARY OF BALD EAGLE OBSERVATIONS & NESTING ACTIVITY
WHITE RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

1982 - First nesting activity on refuge since perhaps 1952. Also first nesting activity recorded in Arkansas since the nest on White River in 1952.

March - Nesting activity observed in Water Storage Area on 3/3; 1 eaglet produced which reached flight stage around the 1st week of July.

Dec. - 2 additional nests located - one on Swan Lake, the other $\frac{1}{2}$ mile northeast of the active nest in the Water Storage Area.

1983 - No nesting activity at any of the three nests. However, 2 adult balds and 1 immature bald observed periodically from Feb. - June in the Water Storage Area.

April - Another nest found - the 4th - located in Steeleman Lakes. No nesting activity observed.

1984 - March - Nesting activity observed early in the month at the nest that produced an eaglet in 1982 (in the Water Storage Area).

June - Two eaglets produced - reached flight stage the 2nd week in June.

Dec. - New nest built 50 yards east of the nest that had been active in the Water Storage Area - this brings total # of nests to 5.

1985 - March - Observed nesting activity at the new nest in the Water Storage Area - the nest found in Dec., 1984. Three eaglets produced.

Nest observed south of refuge on Arkansas River by hunters - eagle on nest. State Endangered Species Coordinator Barkley observed adult bald on nest two weeks later. Requested we check the nest.

April - Flew nest on Arkansas River - nest was vacant on 4/9 - a major logging operation with barge crew quarters and two boats moved in on river across from nest.

July - All three eaglets reached flight stage around 2nd week in the month in the Water Storage Area.

1986 - Jan. - Observed adult bald on nest in Steeleman Lakes.

Also found another nest - located in beaver pond complex in Natural Area - brings total to six.

Feb. - Nest at Steeleman vacant (snow in nest).

Eagle on nest that was active in 1984 in Water Storage Area.

March - Eagle still on nest in Water Storage Area - all other nests inactive.

April - Eaglets observed for 1st time on 4/13 - 2 birds produced.

4/9 - Adult bald on nest in Steeleman Lake.

4/13 - Nest at Steeleman vacant.

4/21 - Observed 2 eaglets & 2 adult balds on nest in Water Storage Area - appear to be 2-3 weeks old.

4/13 - Nest at Steeleman vacant; adult bald on nest in Natural Area (the first activity identified at this site). Nest does not contain young or eggs.

MID-WINTER EAGLE SURVEY

1/8/86	74
1/14/85	28
1/5/84	54
1/6/83	44
1/8/82	44